

WEMBDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Wembdon Parish Council held at Wembdon Village Hall on 13th November 2017 that commenced at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Cllr M Solomon (Chairman), Cllr N Harrison (Vice Chairman), Cllr D Gliddon, Cllr J Hall, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr A Reed, Cllr J Riddle, and Cllr R Webber.

District Cllr A Bown

Parish Clerk: Tony Jay Police: None

129.17 To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs T Travis and J Woods. Also from District Cllr L Duddridge.

130.17 To receive declarations of any pecuniary, prejudicial or personal interests on items relating to this agenda.

The Chairman and Cllr Riddle both declared an interest on agenda item 15 (minute 143.17)

131.17 To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10th October 2017.

It was resolved to approve the minutes as a correct record (6 in favour, 2 abstentions as not present at the previous meeting)

The Chairman signed the minutes as being a correct record of the meeting.

132.17 To receive the Clerk's report.

The glass in the newly installed notice board at the allotments has been smashed. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Gliddon for clearing up the broken glass.

It was unanimously resolved to replace the glass with toughened Perspex, but if the board is damaged again then it will be removed.

The repairs to the fence and kissing gate on the path leading from the allotments are in hand.

The Village Hall manager will be asked to provide mulled wine and mince pies after the December meeting. These will be ordered through the Village Hall Manager in accordance with their premises licence.

The collection of salt from SDC on 25 November was discussed. The Chairman and Cllr Hall will collect the parish allocation of salt bags and distribute them to key points in the village.

Signature of Chairman

The SDC planning training evening was well attended by Councillors and the Clerk.

The pension regulator has written regarding changes to the pension payments. The Clerk reiterated that he did not want to take out a pension, and would remain opted out.

133.17 To receive a Police report regarding crime reports and crime statistics.

No Police report had been received. The Police will be arranging for the graffiti on the playground to be cleared in the near future.

Drugs dealing on Wares Lane and the wildflower meadow has been targeted by the Police.

134.17 To receive a report from Cllr Webber on the Footpaths and Verges.

The leaves are now falling, and pavements guttering and drains in the Parish are now becoming blocked. The Clerk was asked to report this to County Highways.

The trees at the junction of Wembdon Hill and Church Road near the bus stop need to be pruned. The Chairman and Cllr Harrison will look into this.

The Chairman spoke about providing a footpath between Crossacre to the existing path on the playing field, and also the taking of the path out to the full width of the bridge from the playing field to the end of the NDR. One company has quoted at £8,000 for this work. Two more quotes will be sought by the Chairman. Solar street lights would be possible for the path. The cost of each light, on a 6 meter stalk is around £2,300.

It was unanimously resolved to buy one solar light and then assess its performance before considering buying more.

Cllr Reed will explore CIM funding options for this work before any lights are ordered.

The footpath between the path and the village hall was like a lake when recent heavy rain occurred. The Chairman said that this was a snagging issue, and this section of the footpath was the responsibility of the village hall, and so the trust needs to contact the contractor to rectify the problem.

The Chairman explained the benefits of incorporating a number of tarmacking projects into one contract, as it could reduce costs. The residents of Wares Lane have been working towards improving the tarmacking of their section of this lane. The intention is to suggest working with them to prevent a second mobilisation of contractors, with the additional costs involved. The Chairman will explore this option.

County Highways have been in contact regarding the lowering of the kerbs on Hollow Lane near to the Cottage Inn. They are prepared to manage the project, but not to commit any funds towards it. The Parish Council has agreed to pay the cost of this work which will be in the region of £1,000 as the owners of the Cottage Inn are unwilling to hand ownership of their section of the footpath to County Highways, so Highways will not pay for this work.

Confirmation needs to be obtained from County Highways that they are satisfied that all permissions have been granted for this work to go ahead.

135.17 To receive a report from Cllr Gliddon on Highways and Speedwatch.

About a metre of road has subsided near the new development at the end of Wembdon Orchard. County Highways are aware of the problem and are dealing with the matter.

Signature of Chairman

The SID was placed in the 20 mph zone in Church Road from 13 October to 3 November. There were 5333 activations where vehicles were exceeding the speed limit (around 400 a day). The average speed for every vehicle was 23 mph. Two vehicles were recorded as travelling at over 40 mph. 36% of vehicles using this road exceeded the speed limit. The SID is currently in Wembdon Rise, but will be moved to the top of Wembdon Hill shortly. The school crossing patrol officer has reported that vehicles continue to speed over the zebra crossing.

The Police speed enforcement team have been operating in the Parish.

136.17 To receive a report on the Playing Fields.

Thanks were given to Cllr Webber and retired Cllr Webb for the reinstatement of the binoculars in the children's play area. This has proved to be very popular with the children.

Cllr Reed gave an update regarding the inclusive play equipment to be installed. Enquiries are continuing with suppliers. It was agreed that a drainage route will need to be cut from the new trampoline to the ditch near to Crossacre. The new roundabout will be placed near to the existing slide and climbing frame.

The rubber protection strips at the top of the 'three in one' climbing frame in the young children's area needs to be replaced. The steel support cables on the climbing frame rope ladder are beginning to show and need replacing. Caps need to be put on all of the nuts that are missing caps. GB Sports will be asked to carry out this work.

137.17 To receive a report from Cllr Harrison on the Allotments.

The small pot holes on the lane need to be refilled. Cllr Webber will obtain some scalplings and compact this into the potholes.

138.17 To consider the Allotment fees for 2018/19. The 2017/18 fees were set at £40 (full plot) and £22 (half plot).

It was unanimously resolved to keep the fees at the present rates, however if the fees are not paid by the month of April 2018 then the fees will rise to the next year's rates of £45 and £25 respectively.

When a new allotment is let then there will be a requirement for a deposit of £50 (full plot) and £25 (half plot) to be paid, which will only be refunded if the allotment is returned in a good condition when the tenancy ends.

139.17 To receive a report from Cllr Jackson regarding communications.

Cllr Jackson was thanked for producing the latest Parish Paper, and arranging for its distribution. The very successful fireworks display organised by the WCA was in part due to it being well publicised in the Parish Paper.

It was unanimously resolved to allow local teenagers to help with the future distributions of the Parish Paper, and to receive a reimbursement for doing so. A sum of £100 was set as the appropriate payment.

The Parish Council's website was discussed. Cllr Gliddon will make enquiries with the current website provider to see if the current website could be improved, and if necessary contact alternative providers.

140.17 A briefing from Cllr Reed on progress with the Wembdon Neighbourhood Plan

A team has been established and a very productive initial meeting has taken place.

Signature of Chairman

Preliminary steps have been taken with SDC to register Wembdon Parish Council's interest in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. If introduced then this could potentially provide significant funding for the Parish should any future housing developments take place. Time is of the essence as the plan will take many months to be prepared and approved and it would need to be in place prior to any housing developments being approved in order to effect some level of control over the designs and to gain the associated financial benefits.

It was unanimously resolved to support the production of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Public consultations will take place in the Village Hall prior to the next Parish Council meeting on 11th December. Leaflets will be distributed to all households informing Parishioners of these consultations.

- 141.17 To receive an update from Cllr Harrison regarding the working group for the development of Wembdon Parkland.

Standing Orders were temporarily suspended to allow an update to be provided by Lorna Edwards from the Wembdon Parkland and Community Together team. Everything is going well. A fund raising ball and auction will be held in the Village Hall on 21st April 2018.

Plans are being prepared following ideas received from the public.

A presentation will be given by the PACT team at a future Parish Council meeting.

- 142.17 To consider the tarmacking of the footpath on the Liddall land and a section of parkland.

Please see minute 134.17

- 143.17 To consider the proposal to install a bench on Wembdon Common in cooperation with the Mitchell Trust.

The Chairman provided a background to the history of the Mitchell Trust.

The Chairman and Cllr Riddle left the meeting.

It was unanimously resolved to purchase a bench to be installed on Wembdon Common, with the Mitchell Trust paying for a plaque which will state that the bench has been installed to recognise the work of the Mitchell Trust.

An article will appear in the next Parish Paper describing the work of the Mitchell Trust.

The Chairman and Cllr Riddle returned to the meeting.

- 144.17 To consider a grant to Wembdon Village Hall of £2500 specifically as a contribution towards the costs of trees and shrubs in the car park, the purchase of three benches to be placed on the Village Hall terrace to enable the single chairs to be removed and new signage.

The Clerk stated that a figure of £4000 has been budgeted in the current financial year for work at the Village Hall, with only £189 spent to date.

It was resolved to grant Cllr Harrison a budget of £2500 for general village improvements, including projects at the Village Hall (6 in favour, 2 abstentions).

Cllr Reed will research whether free trees can be obtained from the Quantock Trust.

Signature of Chairman

145.17 To consider a financial update and to approve payments:

Statutory Payments as per agreement under minute no 324/13

Non Statutory Payments List:

Chq no	Payee	Detail	Amount
300688	SLCC	SLCC Conference (50% to be reimbursed by Wraxall & Failand PC)	£378.00
300689	Media Orb	Email addresses Oct & Nov.	£36.00
300691	J. Liddall	Land rent	£160.00
300694	Samson	Fencing	£660.00
300695	Parish Magazine	Magazine Printing	£504.50
300696	Samson	Fencing	£220.00
300698	Harris Bros and Collard	Millennium Bridge Repairs	£390.00
300699	Grant Thornton	External Audit	£720.00
300700	Bridgwater Mowers	Strimmers	£713.39
300701	Media Orb	Email addresses Dec - Jan	£18.00

A budget update sheet had been pre circulated to members.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the payments.

The finance committee will meet shortly to discuss the precept and budget for 2018/19 prior to the full Council's approval at the January meeting. It was agreed that the general principle would be that the Precept would remain as at current with only an inflationary revision. The main project to be included within the budget would be a tarmac surface for the Ware's Lane footpath section (Ware's Walk).

146.17 To consider matters of report:

Cllr Reed will be circulating the minutes of any meetings that she has attended when she receives them.

Date of next meeting: 11th December 2017. This will be our annual Christmas meeting where parishioners are encouraged to come along and to share their views and opinions on the priorities of the Council. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served as soon as the formal Council business is concluded.

Signature of Chairman